

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

# **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

## **(HANSARD)**

### **THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT (1954)**

Parliament, which adjourned on March 23, 1954, was prorogued by proclamation dated April 8. By proclamation dated May 13 it was summoned to meet on Thursday, June 3, 1954, and the Third Session began on that date.

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Thursday, June 3, 1954.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at noon.

#### **OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.**

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert George) summoning Parliament.

#### **GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.**

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the Chair. Members of the House of Assembly, having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his opening Speech as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

2. The recent visit of the Queen was a source of profound pleasure to our citizens, who were delighted to have an opportunity of expressing their loyalty to the Throne, and their personal affection for Her Majesty. My Ministers and I tender our sincere thanks to all those whose efforts combined to make the celebrations so highly successful.

3. The appointment of additional Ministers as provided in the Constitution Act Amendment Act of last year, and the re-arrangement of

Ministerial portfolios, are proving highly beneficial and greatly facilitate the administration of the affairs of the State.

4. I join with my Ministers in expressing appreciation of the valuable public services rendered by Sir George Jenkins over a long period. As a Minister of the Crown, and in the other important offices which he held, he displayed marked ability and conscientious devotion to duty, and by his personal qualities earned the respect and affection of all sections of the community. His retirement from the Ministry is deeply regretted.

5. During the financial year now ending, the State experienced continued prosperity. The number of persons employed is about 8,700 more than a year ago and unemployment is now less than one quarter of one per cent. The inflationary factors in our economy have been brought under control with the result that a large measure of stability of prices and costs has been achieved. Production is still increasing but the demand for some of our products is not so strong as in recent years. This fact indicates the vital importance of using every effort to improve the efficiency of our industries.

6. As a result of excellent spring rains the harvest of the season of 1953-1954 exceeded expectations. Twenty-nine million bushels of wheat were produced at an average of 18 bush. per acre; and a record area of more than 1,000,000 acres was sown to barley and yielded 28,000,000 bush. During the season, over 12,000,000 sheep were depastured in South Australia—the greatest number in the history

of the State. Increasing numbers of graziers are running small herds of beef cattle in conjunction with sheep, and last season the beef cattle in South Australia increased by 29,000 or approximately 15 per cent. A keen interest in dairying has been maintained, and the number of dairy cows has increased. The season was also favourable for fruit-growing although prices for some fruits were lower. Excellent crops of apples and stone fruits were obtained, as well as increased production of canned and dried peaches. A heavy wine grape harvest coincided with a restricted demand by wine makers, though practically all the grapes found a market. A heavy potato harvest is in sight. The outlook for the coming year is good, with favourable conditions for seeding and pastures, and every indication of a good lambing and high winter milk production. There may be some decrease in the area sown to barley, but it is probable that the areas sown to wheat, oats, and peas will increase. Clearing of virgin scrub for pastures on land of good rainfall continues at an increased rate.

7. The campaign to eradicate fruit fly from the suburbs of Adelaide has continued, with a large measure of success. Only one infestation was found in the spring of 1953, and none during the ensuing summer, although many reports were investigated. The pest has not recurred in any of the centres where measures were taken for its eradication.

8. Co-operation with the Commonwealth in War Service Land Settlement is being maintained. The total number of settlers now occupying blocks is 760, and 110 more applicants have been approved for consideration when further blocks are being allotted. A high degree of success has attended the scheme. The settlers are already achieving satisfactory levels of production and it is clear that the settlements will prove highly beneficial both to the settlers and the State as a whole.

During the year 71,000 acres of additional land on Kangaroo Island have been reported on by the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement, and will shortly be submitted to the Commonwealth for inclusion in the scheme.

9. In the irrigation areas an important development is the extended use of electricity for pumping. The electrically-operated pumping station at Loveday is giving full satisfaction, and the conversion of other pumping stations to electricity is being carried out.

10. Work for the drainage of 260,000 acres of land in Avenue Flat, Reedy Creek Flat, and Biscuit Flat in the South-East is proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

11. The Government adheres to its policy of improving the State railways, which are still a vital factor in our transport system. Good progress has been made in converting the Mount Gambier-Millicent line to broad gauge and in completing the ancillary work on the broad gauge line from Wolseley to Mount Gambier. The new railway from Cutana to Radium Hill was opened last October, and work is progressing on the duplication of the Goodwood-Marino line, although retarded by shortage of labour. Operations in the South-East, and on the Goodwood-Marino line will be continued as rapidly as possible. Satisfactory service has been given by the diesel-electric locomotives. During the year tenders were called for 10 more of these locomotives for use on main lines, and a contract was let for 10 smaller diesel-electric locomotives for work at Port Adelaide. Large additions to rolling stock have been made, and work is in hand for building additional coaches for the Overland Express, and rail cars and rail car trailers for country services.

12. The money made available last year from special grants and increased motor revenue has enabled the Government to proceed steadily with a substantial programme of road construction and maintenance. It is expected that the expenditure on roads and bridges during the present financial year will exceed £4,000,000. Included in this amount are grants of £1,500,000 to local governing bodies for roads, including roads of access to soldier settlements and forest plantations, and roads in Housing Trust areas. The policy of making interest-free loans to enable councils to purchase efficient roadmaking machinery has been continued. During this year, £450,000 is being made available for this purpose in addition to loans of £50,000 for other purposes.

13. The works for the improvement and extension of harbours have been carried on in a satisfactory manner. Good progress has been made at Port Adelaide where the older wharves and buildings are being replaced by structures of modern design, some of which are already in use. At Osborne, the extension of the coal handling plant wharf is nearing completion; and at the Glanville dockyard, which is being re-organized, a new wharf and workshop are under construction. The harbour at Port

Pirie is being improved by wharf repairs and dredging. The proposals for better shipping facilities at Port Lincoln have been worked out in detail and are receiving the consideration of the Government. Final designs for the extensions at Kingscote have been completed, and this work is being commenced.

14. The operations of the Electricity Trust reflect the growth of production. During the present financial year electricity supplied to industry increased by 20 per cent, and total sales will be approximately 675,000,000 units—100,000,000 units above the amount sold last year. The trust's consumers are increasing at the rate of 1,000 a month, and now number 187,000. A considerable proportion of the new consumers are in country areas, to which the trust gives special attention. Country extensions are facilitated by the arrangements under which the trust supplies electricity to sparsely settled areas with the aid of Government subsidies. During the year the electricity supply on Yorke Peninsula was extended to Edithburgh and Yorketown, and a transmission line built from Kadina to Moonta. Electricity has also been connected to the irrigation areas between Mannum and Murray Bridge and will be taken down the river to Wellington. Electricity has also been supplied to Radium Hill from Adelaide by a transmission line 260 miles in length. Construction of the power station at Port Augusta has proceeded rapidly. The generating plant is being installed, and electricity will be produced during this winter. In view of the proved deposits of coal at Leigh Creek, the trust is designing another power station at Port Augusta, which will bring the total capacity of its stations there to 270,000 kilowatts. An agreement has been reached between the trust and the Forestry Board respecting the establishment of an electrical power station in the South-East. This plant will use waste wood as a fuel and will supply power not only to the Government mills but also to the general public in Mount Gambier, Penola, Millicent, and other places. Later, additional stations will be established for the further extension of electricity supplies in the South-East.

15. The Leigh Creek coalfield continues to pay its way without assistance from general revenue and is supplying coal at a price which, after allowing for different calorific values, is below the cost of New South Wales coal. The field will be progressively developed in order to make the State independent, as far as practicable, of outside supplies. The trust has

arranged for the Mines Department to carry out an extended drilling programme for the further exploration of the coal. The township at Leigh Creek is well established with comforts and amenities, and the building of the Aroona reservoir is proceeding. Preliminary work for the coal crushing and loading plant, which will be required in connection with the standard gauge railway, is now completed.

16. In the construction and extension of waterworks the year now ending has been one of gratifying progress. On the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline work costing over £2,000,000 was carried out, and the Government expects that, by next summer, water from the Murray will be delivered into the River Torrens at Birdwood. Works are in hand for doubling the rate at which water is supplied to Hope Valley and for improving supplies in the western suburbs of Adelaide. The first stage of the operations on the South Para reservoir is now complete and the building of the embankment will be proceeded with next summer. A great amount of the initial work on the Yorke Peninsula water supply has been done, and further substantial progress will be made during the next 12 months. In the Uley-Wanilla scheme on Eyre Peninsula over 250 miles of steel main have been laid, and it is anticipated that the scheme will be completed next year. In connection with the Jamestown-Caltowie water supply, the pipeline has been laid and Jamestown is being reticulated. This scheme is expected to be in operation next summer. Work has commenced in connection with water supplies for Meningie, Milang, Karoonda, Paringa and Geranium, and further progress has been made in the water conservation works in the county of Buxton. Investigations and preliminary work in connection with a number of other projects are in hand, including reservoirs at Myponga, Kangaroo Creek and Clarendon. The scheme for supplying water from Broken Hill to Radium Hill has also been completed and is now in operation.

17. My Government has continued its policy of aiding and encouraging the development of the mineral industry. The success of this policy is again shown by the value of the State's mineral production, which has been maintained at the record figure of £6,000,000 a year. A vigorous programme of exploration has been followed during the year, particularly in connection with coal and uranium. The reserves of open cut coal proved at Leigh Creek have reached 53,000,000 tons, and are sufficient to supply the power-house at Port

Augusta for many years. At Radium Hill the equipment of the uranium mine is almost completed. Production at this mine will commence in the near future, and the treatment works at Port Pirie will come into operation early next year. In the Myponga area, uranium is already being produced, and the discoveries at Crocker Well and other places indicate clearly that South Australia is well endowed with this mineral over a wide area. The Government is now investigating further deposits of considerable promise. There is every reason to believe that the State, in addition to supplying sufficient uranium for its own power requirements, will be in a position to supply substantial quantities to approved buyers. My Ministers have invited the British Government to send geological officers to South Australia to assist in assessing the value of the State's uranium deposits. Negotiations are being conducted with the Commonwealth with the object of ensuring that the technical laboratories necessary for developing atomic energy are established in this State. Discussions are taking place with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd., regarding the establishment of the steel industry at Whyalla. The production of pyrites from the Nairne deposit will commence this year, and the sulphuric acid obtained from it will make South Australia independent of outside sources of sulphur for superphosphate.

18. The State's forestry undertakings continue to make an increasing contribution to the prosperity of the State. Since 1929, log production has increased almost tenfold, and further expansion will take place as additional forest areas come into production. Although suitable cleared land is scarce, plantings during the season of 1954 will be 4,800 acres, bringing the total area of plantations to about 125,000 acres. The current year's output of timber and cases, and the revenue, estimated at £1,200,000, will exceed all previous records. My Ministers expect that the buildings for the new mill at Mount Gambier will be completed by Christmas. Installation of the machinery will be proceeded with without delay. The Government is considering a proposal for the establishment of a plant to cut and treat pine logs for use as railway sleepers.

19. The Education Department is still faced with a rapid annual increase in the number of pupils. During the past five years, enrolments in the schools have risen 47 per cent. No other Australian State has had an increase of this magnitude, which gives rise

to serious problems of staffing and accommodation. A considerable measure of success, however, has now been achieved in overcoming these difficulties. The Architect-in-Chief's Department continues to provide classrooms at the rate of about 200 a year, and good progress is being made in building schools of the larger type, of which 11 are now in course of erection and 12 more are projected. The Government has also succeeded in securing more teachers. In recent years there has been an increase of about 25 per cent in the number of trainees at the Teachers College, and this can be expected to continue. Allowances to the trainees have been raised. Primary schools were recently reclassified with a consequent improvement in salaries and prospects for a number of teachers. School committees and parents' associations have maintained their keen interest in the schools. In 1953, they raised approximately £130,000, which was subsidized, pound for pound, by the Government. My Ministers continue to give careful attention to the future educational requirements of the State.

20. Satisfactory progress has been made in improving public health. There has been a marked reduction in the incidence of serious infectious diseases and in the mortality from them. The epidemic of poliomyelitis has subsided, and notable progress has been made in the control of tuberculosis. The death rate from this disease in 1953 was less than half that of the previous year. The organization which conducts the X-ray chest survey is being expanded so that the whole population of the State may be examined at suitable intervals. The immunization of children against tuberculosis and other infectious diseases has been extended to a number of country centres. In carrying out its policy on public health the Government works in close co-operation with local authorities.

21. To meet the needs of our growing population the Government is enlarging and improving hospitals both in the metropolitan and country areas. Among the new buildings recently completed or nearing completion are the nurses building at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (which will be used at first as a maternity ward); the nurses home at the Royal Adelaide Hospital; infectious diseases buildings at Northfield; accommodation for nurses and women patients and a dining room at Parkside; a childrens ward at Mount Gambier; and outpatients and nurses buildings at Port Augusta. Extensions

and improvements at a number of other hospitals throughout the State are in course of being carried out and plans for much work to be commenced in the future are well advanced. The grants to subsidized hospitals for maintenance, building, and equipment were increased this year by approximately £94,000, while grants to community hospitals and other medical institutions were increased from £640,000 to £709,000.

22. It is expected that the number of houses built by the South Australian Housing Trust during the current financial year will be about 3,550. This will bring the total number of houses completed by the trust since its inception to approximately 21,000. The trust's scheme for providing dwellings on agricultural holdings has been largely availed of, and contracts for the erection of these houses are being entered into at the rate of about four per week. The building of 108 small cottages for letting to pensioners at low rents commenced last January, and the first of these will be available within two months. The assistance to home builders and purchasers given by the Government under the Homes Act is much appreciated by the public and guarantees have now been given in respect of loans to 6,900 persons. These loans amount in all to £5,500,000, and the contingent liability of the Government under the guarantees is £1,090,000.

23. My Government is desirous of encouraging the provision of homes for aged persons of limited means and has worked out certain financial proposals for this purpose. Your sanction will be asked to a vote of approximately £300,000 from the general revenue of the current year. This money will be used to subsidize approved capital expenditure by religious and benevolent organizations on homes for the aged. The subsidies will be payable on a pound for pound basis, on money expended during 1953-1954, and on money to be expended by the organizations in future, pursuant to commitments made in 1953-1954.

24. Although the exact figures of revenue and expenditure for the year are not yet known, the Government anticipates that the expenditure approved in the Estimates will not be exceeded. On the other hand, revenue may exceed the estimate. In these circumstances it is likely that the result will be a reasonable surplus.

25. The gross loan expenditure for the year is estimated at £25,000,000. Credits to the Loan Fund will be of the order of £2,500,000, resulting in an estimated net loan expenditure of £22,500,000.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

26. Supplementary Estimates for urgent expenditure not provided for in the Budget will be laid before you.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

27. You will be asked to pass a Supply Bill for £6,000,000 to cover expenditure during the early part of the coming financial year.

28. The Government has considered the report of the committee on the control of taxicabs in the metropolitan area and is preparing legislation on this subject.

29. Negotiations between the Government and the councils of West Torrens, Glenelg, and Henley and Grange, respecting the establishment of a trust for the proposed recreation reserve at West Beach are proceeding satisfactorily. Agreement on questions of principle has been reached. When the details are settled, my Government will submit legislation to you on this subject.

30. You will also be asked to sanction a Bill for the further extension of the operation of the Prices Act.

31. The Government is preparing legislation for the establishment of a Metropolitan Public Transport Council. It will be the duty of this council to deal with the problem of co-ordinating the various forms of public transport serving the metropolitan area, with the object of preventing unnecessary duplication of services, and of securing efficiency and economy.

32. Problems associated with the land values system of rating in municipalities are receiving attention from my Ministers, and a Bill on this matter may be introduced.

33. The Government is of opinion that, in the public interest, more adequate control of the subdivision of land into building allotments is necessary, and further legislation on this topic will be laid before you.

34. My Ministers are reviewing the existing rates of police pensions, and will submit to you proposals for increases in these payments.

35. My Ministers are also giving attention to a large number of other recommendations and requests for legislation. Among the subjects under consideration are justices, juries, places of public entertainment, evidence, workmen's compensation, prisons, the public service, inflammable oils, electoral matters, road traffic, bread, gas supply in country areas, and distribution of intestate estates.

36. I now declare this session open, and trust that your deliberations may be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the State.

The Governor retired from the Chamber and the members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

#### DEEP SEA PORT IN SOUTH-EAST.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the final report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on a deep sea port in the South-East, together with minutes of evidence.

#### UPPER SOUTH-EAST LANDS DEVELOPMENT.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on Upper South-East lands development (Counties Russell and Cardwell).

#### QUESTION.

##### QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Can the Chief Secretary state the approximate date of opening of the first portion of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Woodville, and whether the Government will declare a school holiday in the metropolitan area on that memorable occasion?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—Although it is not possible to indicate at present a definite date for the opening, I have been given to understand that the contractors will be finished and the building available for use about the end of this month. A lay and a medical superintendent have been appointed, a radiologist will soon be appointed and staff is being recruited. Until it is known when the building will be available it will not be possible to fix an opening date but I expect the hospital to open at about the time estimated by the contractor. I can assure the honourable member that an appropriate opening ceremony will be held, although whether the day is declared a school holiday is a matter for the Minister of Education. Because of the generous allocation of holidays already made for this year, this matter will require some consideration.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. A. L. McEwin (Chief Secretary) moved—

That a committee consisting of the Hons. F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore, F. T. Perry, W. W. Robinson and the Chief Secretary be

appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor this day and to report on July 27.

Motion carried.

[Sitting suspended from 12.50 p.m. until 3.30 p.m.]

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The following sessional committees were appointed on the motion of the Chief Secretary:—

Standing Orders.—The President, the Chief Secretary, and the Hons. F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore and C. D. Rowe.

Library.—The President and the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, J. L. S. Bice and Sir Wallace Sandford.

Printing.—The Hons. S. C. Bevan, J. L. Cowan, A. A. Hoare, F. T. Perry and R. R. Wilson.

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. This Bill follows the usual form of Supply Bills and the amount for which authority of Parliament is being sought for expenditure for the public service for the financial year ending June 30, 1955, is £6,000,000. This amount will be sufficient to carry on the services of the State for approximately two months.

Clause 2 provides for the issue of an amount not exceeding £6,000,000. Clause 3 provides that no payment shall be made out of the moneys provided under clause 2 in excess of the rates voted for similar services on the Estimates for the financial year ended on June 30, 1954, except that increases in salaries or wages fixed or prescribed pursuant to any award or determination may be paid. Clause 3 (2) provides for the Treasurer having the power to pay such increases out of the moneys voted by Parliament in this Bill.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—Next week Parliament is to adjourn until July 27, but I do not want to wait until then without placing on record my appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the Hon. Sir George Jenkins, who was formerly Minister of Agriculture. I have known him for a number of years, and sat under his chairmanship of the Public Works Standing Committee for 10 years, and without contradiction I can say he was held in the highest esteem by those associated with him,

irrespective of Party. He did wonderful work for South Australia and the least we can do is to pay a tribute to him for those services.

Since Parliament last adjourned three members have been elevated to the Ministry. It is a great honour to any member to have the confidence of his Party and be appointed to such high office. On behalf of the Opposition I congratulate the Honourable N. L. Jude on having been elevated to the Ministry. We know that he will give of his best and, irrespective of Party, will give members that consideration to which they are entitled. I also congratulate the two new Ministers in the Assembly. A fine choice has been made, and in offering my congratulations I can assure them of that courtesy, consideration and respect to which any Minister of the Crown is entitled. I wish them all the very best.

I have previously referred to the very unsatisfactory position of the flour milling industry, which has worsened. I fear that very few appreciate the position of the trade. My remarks are not a criticism of the Government, but can be taken as a criticism of the powers that be. Today consumers are paying an extra penny for each 2 lb. loaf in order to bolster the wheat industry. One can judge the position by the exorbitant prices being paid for land to grow wheat; eventually the taxpayers will have to bear the burden. We cannot sell our flour in any great quantities and the same applies to wheat, although to a lesser degree—this because of the greed of a certain section which has no regard for the manufacturing side. On June 10 Canada and the United States of America will declare their policy on the wheat industry. The price of wheat overseas is quoted at 14s. 2d. a bushel, and sometimes even lower. This wheat could have been sold a few months ago for 17s 5d. a bushel, but because of inexperience and lack of foresight and because representatives of farmers misled them, the industry is in a precarious state. Those in the trade advocate reduced prices to meet the market. It cannot be denied that those responsible have misled the bus. The action of the authorities in keeping the United Kingdom out of the international wheat agreement has resulted in farmers losing much money. That is a serious thing to say, but it is true.

We are told that the Wheat Board proposes to spend £3,500,000 to provide storage, but for what purpose? It will be to feed the rats and weevils. They could have done a greater service for producers had they met the market

the same as the Barley Board has done. What a contrast! Last year we had a record barley crop, and the Barley Board is not talking about storage, but is selling all its barley because it met the market; and as a result producers will receive a greater return than they would have received had a policy similar to that of the Wheat Board been adopted. Other countries parties to the International Wheat Agreement have captured the trade. We hear much about the buoyancy of trade in Australia, but very little about the other side of the picture. My colleagues and I have never voted against any proposal in this place that was detrimental to the interests of the producers.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—The honourable member must have forgotten the Margarine Bill of last session.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—At all times we of the Opposition have endeavoured to help primary industries. I stand for local production and am not so narrow-minded as to refuse a South Australian manufacturer an opportunity to produce an article and keep an industry going whereas some of my friends who interject are prepared to allow that article to come in from other States and close the local industry, for that is what has happened.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Does not the consumer come into the picture, too?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Not according to some people. Unfortunately in this Council there are people who look after only one section of the community. At one time Australia was the largest exporter of flour in the world. Twelve months ago nearly two and a half million tons of flour, bran and pollard were manufactured in Australia, and at one time 50 per cent of the flour manufactured was exported.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—Until?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Until 1953, and it may surprise some to learn that of the total wheat crop 82 per cent was gristed in Australia. Today, without a word of protest by Parliament, in order to fix a price of 14s. a bushel we penalized ourselves to help the man on the land by agreeing to pay a penny more for each 2 lb. loaf of bread. No-one objected to that because all desired to assist the wheat industry, but what about the other side? What has this one way traffic done to the milling trade? I have referred to this previously, but the position is getting worse. Private enterprise has invested large sums in the flour milling trade in country areas and has built

up an export market besides supplying local requirements. The industry provided employment in a large number of country centres, but not today.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Was not a new flour mill opened recently?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Only a very small one at Cummins, but mill after mill has been closed in South Australia as well as in other parts of the Commonwealth. In Australia there are 160 mills, but every one of them has suffered. Only 12 months ago the Balaklava mill was working three shifts a day and employing 33 men. For many months it has been closed and not a single person is engaged in the industry there. A large mill at Port Adelaide is in the same position, and I wish members would do me the honour of accompanying me to inspect this mill, in which a large capital sum is invested, but which today is sealed up like a prison with not even a caretaker. At Moonta, Jamestown, Laura, Bridgewater, Eudunda, Stockwell and many other places mills are working reduced time.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Who is to blame?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The powers that be.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Who are they?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The honourable member knows who is running this industry—the Australian Wheat Board. All our wheat and flour could have been sold had the board adopted the right policy, and Governments are doing nothing to ease the situation. The Wheat Board missed the bus and agreed to accept a reduced price only after other countries had got in.

The Hon. W. W. Robinson—Some other industries have closed, too.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That may be so, but the honourable member may speak for them and I will help him. My first consideration is South Australia and the men who have helped to build up this industry and have made sacrifices in arbitration matters in order to play the game. What do they get in return? In these mills today employees have had to sacrifice 35s. a week. Men who have served their lives in the trade cannot be expected to look for other jobs, but what compensation do they get in return for their efforts in building up the industry? I am not thinking of only this one industry, for there are others as well. Men have had to leave their homes in the country and come to

the metropolitan area to win a livelihood. We hear so much about decentralization but this is not decentralization. We are faced today with a shortage of offal and I was informed only this week that a certain interstate agent has sought permission to import bran and pollard into Australia from South Africa. What a tragedy!

The Hon. E. Anthoney—We had to import coal from South Africa at one time.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I am not referring to coal as I am more concerned about employment for men engaged in the flour milling industry, of whom there are over 5,000. Do not members think that an industry which has done so much for Australia is worth consideration? It is not getting it because of the greed of certain people who want to grasp the last possible penny. Unfortunately, producers have been misled by the people who have been representing them. Wheat could have been sold at 17s. 8d. a bushel, but because of the International Wheat Agreement Australia and other wheat producing countries would not accept it and kept the United Kingdom out of the agreement for the sake of a mere 5d. a bushel.

The Hon. R. R. Wilson—Other countries have already withdrawn from the agreement.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That is true. Some parties to the agreement have broken it and by so doing have captured former Australian markets. Can that be denied? The Governments of Australia have not given much consideration to this question but have been led by a certain section. We must face the position. What I, and others, have said during the last 12 months has come true. We must return to the principles that count and no board should be run by sectional interests. There should be an adjustment of prices. Certain markets have been captured by other countries.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds—Do you suggest that the price has been the only factor in that?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—It has been the main factor. We could have obtained 17s 5d. a bushel for wheat but are getting only 14s. 2d. today. There has been mismanagement and it has not been in the interests of the industry. The four exporting States of Australia—New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia—have been competing for overseas markets. In the other States a greater margin is allowed for offal than in



South Australia; the Government should take notice of this because those States can compete to our disadvantage.

The Hon. W. W. Robinson—They are allowed more in Canada and that is why she can outbid us.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That may be so, and an adjustment should be made here. We should not permit other countries to reap the world's markets. In the *Advertiser* of May 31 under the heading "Wheat Surplus Growing" this appears:—

The four major producing countries, Canada, the United States, Australia and the Argentine had a carry-over at the beginning of April of about 1,800 million bushels. The carry-over at the beginning of the next crop year on August 1 may be as much as 1,600 million bushels compared with 1,060 million bushels at the beginning of the current season. In these circumstances, the problem for the producers may not be only one of financing, but also one of storage space. The bulk of business done now for millable wheat is in Argentine wheat. There is still a demand for Australian wheat because of its colour, but since it is at a premium of from £1 to £1 10s. a ton over Argentine wheat, it is not selling at any quantity at present.

We frequently read in the press and hear of the work this Government is doing for industry. An industry which did not know a 40-hour

week and which worked Saturdays and Sundays to meet the demands of the world is entitled to consideration.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Could it be possible that you have got them such good conditions and wages that the industry cannot stand it?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The honourable member is always trying to compliment me and trying to draw a red herring across the track. Good conditions have been obtained because of the reasonableness of both sides. Each side has realized its responsibilities. I have been concerned with the industry for 45 years and have acted for it without fee or reward and it is only natural when I see it dying out that I should speak on its behalf. The farming industry has been let down by those who have been advocating its case. They have missed the bus and the farmer will ultimately regret the misrepresentations that have been made to him when he discovers that he could have received 3s. a bushel more for his wheat.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.10 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, June 8, at 2 p.m.